

SURVEY ON LIVING ENVIRONMENT OF FARMERS IN CENTRAL PLAIN CHINA

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Background and Aims: To describe the farmers' living environment in investigation area. And to provide information and basis for formulating environmental comprehensive management plans.

Methods: We have chosen 560 farmer households as the subjects of household-spot observation and inquiring survey. The study was implemented by trained observers according to formulated observation outline.

Results: (1) Hygiene conditions: the households surveyed were generally in good hygiene conditions, except 20.9% of them. Less than 20% of households deposited chemical fertilizer, pesticide, farm tools and grains together; about 50% of households discarded their garbage and sewage randomly; 60% kept free-roaming poultry and poultry droppings could be found in 30% of them. (2) Kitchens: 96.4% of households owned separate kitchens. The availability of clean fuel was low, and firewood and coal were still the main cooking fuel, accounting for 60.7% and 40.8%; tightness of kitchen chimney in 24.6% of households were in poor conditions. (3) Drinking water: 66.4% of the households used shallow groundwater in distributed supply, among them 78.4% used manual-operating well and 21.6% open well. There were also some risk factors of drinking water safety, for example, 6.7% of the wells located within 20m away from the toilets and 56.5% of households used water containers. (4) Toilet: the households hardly had sanitary latrines. Although most of toilet had roof-toilet, 46.1% of the toilets were in poor hygiene conditions. (5) Village environment: 81.1% of villagers showed their approval about the living condition, and 18.9% dissatisfied with it; 69.8% of them considered the poor river water did adverse effect on daily life, 56% believed that usage of river water had being influenced and 32.9% believed it might contaminate groundwater.

Conclusion It was necessary to improve the living environment, such as promoting the use of clean fuel, providing safety drinking water and protect the river pollution.